

MIGUEL PERALTA LIBERTAD



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Miguel Peralta Betanzos is a community organizer and anarchist from the Mazatec community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, Oaxaca. Together with his family and community members, for more than a decade, Miguel has faced criminalization, imprisonment, and persecution from the Mexican State for his struggle against cacique-political party power in defense of autonomy, self-determination, and territory in his community.

Those responsible for the repression in his community are the cacique Manuel Zepeda and his daughter, the state congresswoman for MORENA, Elisa Zepeda Lagunas. Occupying positions of power and mobilizing the repressive apparatus of the state, they have terrorized the community for more than ten years.

Following a sociopolitical conflict that exploded into violence in Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón in December 2014, caused by the cacique group attacking the community assembly, Miguel was detained in April 2015 on fabricated charges. In October 2018 he was sentenced to fifty years in prison. Following an appeal and nearly a month on a hunger strike, in October 2019, Miguel was absolved of all charges and released. More than two years after his release, on March 4, 2022, the Collegiate Court in Oaxaca revoked Miguel's freedom, confirming again his original fifty-year sentence,

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and issuing an arrest warrant against him. Since then, Miguel has been displaced from his community, living beneath political persecution.

In light of this absurd ruling, an appeal was then filed at the highest level of judicial power in the country, the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN). On November 6, 2024, the Supreme Court issued a ruling overturning the decision of the Collegiate Court in Oaxaca and ordering it to issue a new ruling that takes into account the sociocultural context of the community and the conflict.

On February 20, 2026, the Collegiate Court in Oaxaca recognized the falsity of the testimonies against Miguel, acquitting him of all charges. This ruling should have put an end to the political persecution against him. However, on April 17, 2026, Miguel's case returned to the Supreme Court which admitted an appeal filed by the accusing party—the Oaxacan State Congresswoman Elisa Zepeda—against the ruling in Oaxaca, thereby reopening the case, and continuing the State's persecution against him. The new ruling from the Supreme Court is expected sometime in 2027.

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